

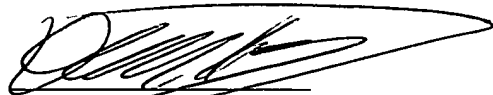
REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims in response to the Office Action of December 16, 2004 to more clearly define the present invention. In particular, the applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations previously found in claim 2 and to more clearly define one embodiment of the present invention wherein the contacting step is carried out through a series of reactors. Claim 2 has been canceled and claim 3 has been amended to correspond to the amendments made to claim 1. Further, claim 7 has been amended to more clearly define a further embodiment of the present invention by removing confusing language noted by the Examiner and claim 8 has been amended to correspond with the amendment made to claim 7. Moreover, claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 7 and claims 9-26 have been canceled.

In light of the above amendments, it is respectfully that the all of the rejections raised by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, in the Office Action of December 16, 2004 have been overcome. In particular, both embodiments now defined by claims 1 and 7 are fully supported by the specification and the confusion caused by the original language of the claims has been overcome. Further, the indefinite language noted by the Examiner with respect to claims 7-39 has been corrected and now clearly defines the present invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and further action consistent therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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